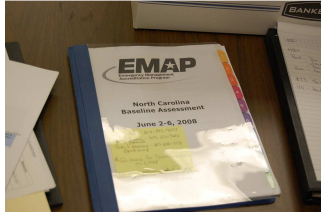


NCEM Achieves National Accreditation.

On October 6th, North Carolina's Emergency Management Division achieved national accreditation under the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). The EMAP Commission approved NCEM's application by unanimous vote based upon the assessment conducted by the EMAP evaluation team during the first week in June, 2008. North Carolina joins 19 other states, and three local jurisdictions in achieving the national standard for accreditation. NCEM began the accreditation process in June 2007. Twenty-three team



members began documenting procedures and gathering materials that demonstrated comprehensive coordination among state agencies and local governments to prepare for and respond to natural or man-made disasters. The state program demonstrated compliance with 63 national standards and underwent a peer-review assessment by trained EMAP assessors.

Tim Manning, chairperson of the EMAP commission said, "States like North Carolina that work toward and achieve compliance with these standards are at the forefront in ensuring their residents are served by a comprehensive system to deal with disasters." CCPS Secretary Bryan Beatty said, "Earning national accreditation is a tremendous achievement that confirms what we have known for some time. North Carolina has one of the best programs in the country for dealing with disasters." For more information, contact Ron Wall at (919) 733-3427 or rwall@ncem.org.



NCEM host NCGS 166-A Review Meeting.

On October 15, 2008, North Carolina Emergency Management hosted a meeting to review North Carolina General Statute 166-A. This meeting was designed to review the general statute's effectiveness and practicality during state declared emergencies. Participants in the meeting represented, Federal, State and local disaster response agencies. North Carolina General Statute 166-A sets forth the authority and responsibility of the Governor, State agencies, and local governments in prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from natural or man-made disasters or hostile military or paramilitary action and to:

- ▲ Reduce vulnerability of people and property of this State to damage, injury, and loss of life and property;
- ▲ Prepare for prompt and efficient rescue, care and treatment of threatened or affected persons;
- ▲ Provide for the rapid and orderly rehabilitation of persons and restoration of property; and
- ▲ Provide for cooperation and coordination of activities relating to emergency and disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery among agencies and officials of this State and with similar agencies and officials of other states, with local and federal governments, with interstate organizations and with other private and quasi-official organizations.

For more information, contact: Jeff Arndt at (919) 733-3613 or jarndt@ncem.org.



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State Emergencies Communications Committee Host Bi-annual Meeting.



On October 8, 2008 the SECC held its bi-annual meeting at WRAZ Fox 50 –TV Station to discuss topics relevant to the NC State Emergency Alert System. At this meeting Department of Homeland Security representative gave a presentation on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). The meeting also recapped Amber Alert and Silver Alert notifications, past required monthly tests, and others. In 2009, the NC State EAS plan will undergo a reproduction to reflect necessary changes. Release date is set for second quarter, 2010.

For more information, contact Cory Grier at (919) 733-3824 or cgrier@ncem.org.

NCEM To Participate In Federal IPAWS Pilot Program.

North Carolina Emergency Management has agreed to participant in the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) using Digital Emergency Alert System. IPAWS is the Nation's next generation public communications and warning capability. FEMA is working with the public and private sectors to integrate warning systems to allow the President and other officials to effectively address and alert the public. IPAWS will support alert and warning capabilities chosen by state and local emergency managers to send alerts to their residents, integrate new alert and warning technologies, and support alerts in formats understood by those who don't speak English or who have disabilities. IPAWS is operating under the principle of Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standards and Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS). Other states participating in the pilot are Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Texas, South Carolina and Puerto Rico. The pilot begins in 2009 with DHS providing the initial equipment and covering all funding obligations associated with the pilot program. If North Carolina decided to continue to pilot after the 2009 year, North Carolina's yearly recurring costs are estimated to be between \$5,000 and \$15,000.

For more information, contact Cory Grier at (919) 733-3824 or cgrier@ncem.org.

NCEM Holds Inaugural Emergency Operations Plan Stakeholders Meeting.

On November 6, 2008, North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) hosted the inaugural Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Stakeholders meeting. This meeting brought together NCEM and NC State Emergency Response Team (SERT) agencies so NCEM could capture lessons learned SERT activations from the past year in the effort to make the EOP better. At this meeting, each participant had a chance to present his/her agency's thoughts on improving the plan. This stakeholders meeting will lead to a improved and collectively agreed upon revision.

On February 26, 2009, a final review of the revised plan will be released to stakeholders for their comment and on April 15, 2009, the NC EOP plan will be released to the general public, including State and Federal Agencies. For more information, contact Quinn Woolard at (919) 715-9242 or qwoolard@ncem.org.



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**VIPER Site Activations**

Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) is a way for first responders and public safety officials to communicate with one another on a single radio system. When in place, interoperable communications will benefit all public safety agencies when dealing with daily emergency calls and large scale disasters. For more information on VIPER, contact Captain Alan Melvin, NC State Highway Patrol at (919) 662-4440 or amelvin@ncshp.org

The following VIPER sites have been established and are now operational:

<u>Location (City/County)</u>	<u>Date Activated</u>	<u>VIPER Site Made Possible Through</u>
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No Site Activations

Note: maps are not exact and are to be used as general reference.

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-Special Mentioning-

N/A

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